

CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report & Tabular Statistics for 1911.

(ABBREVIATED).

Table 1.

BIRTHS and DEATHS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number	Rate.
1906	17885	431	431	24.9	207.	11.5	8	1	31	71.9	200	11.1
1907	„	432	432	24.1	254	14.2	7	6	30	69.4	253	14.14
1908	„	411	411	22.9	223	12.4	4	6	26	63.2	225	12.58
1909	„	400	400	22.30	262	14.64	6	1	35	87.5	257	14.36
1910	„	409	409	22.8	217	12.13	6	8	38	92.9	219	12.24
1911	18244	394	394	21.5	260	14.2	8	17	38	96.4	269	14.7

Number of Inhabited Houses in District—1911 Census ..

4458

Average Number of Persons per House ..

4.09

Table 2.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING YEAR.

	No.	Total cases notified in each locality.				Sent to Isolation Hospital.
		Rural.	Corsham.	Castle Combe.	Christian Malford.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	30	3	6	3	18	26
Erysipelas	6	1	1	4	..	..
Scarlet Fever	19	..	2	1	16	16
Enteric Fever	3	..	1	2	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis	8	3	2	1	2	..
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis ..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Totals ..	68	8	12	11	37	42

Table 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

CAUSE.	Total No.	under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 upward	Deaths in Work-house
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculous) ..	24	..	..	..	3	6	9	4	2	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	5	..	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	2
Rheumatic Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer	22	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	10	..
Bronchitis	25	2	..	1	..	..	..	4	18	9
Broncho-Pneumonia	13	5	2	..	..	..	1	2	3	..
Pneumonia (all other forms)	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	10	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	4	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	6	2	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..
Debility and Premature Birth	18	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Violent Deaths and Suicides	8	..	1	..	1	1	2	..	3	1
Other defined diseases	112	7	2	1	1	4	13	19	65	15
Total	269	38	8	4	13	14	33	45	114	32

Table 4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSE.	Total No.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months
Enteritis	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
Premature Births	7	6	..	1	..	7	..	..	..	..
Debility	11	2	..	1	3	6	3	2	..	..
Injury at Birth	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Convulsions	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Bronchitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pneumonia	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2
Other causes.. .. .	5	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1
Total	38	11	..	2	3	16	6	5	5	6

Births.

378

Deaths.

35

Legitimate

16

Illegitimate

3

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

The Tables I have just read to you are issued by the Local Government Board, but they contain such accurate details of vital statistics that little is left for me to dilate upon. I submit my report on rather different lines, according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

Physical Features of District. *General condition of population : Chief occupations, and their influence on the public health.* The district is composed of small towns and populous villages. It is generally hilly and in parts well wooded. There are some streams running through including the river Avon, which supply drinking water for cattle. The surface soil is either loam or gravel, overlaying corn-brash or Oxford clay. The occupation of the inhabitants are chiefly husbandry; the only manufactory being paper at Slaughterford, brushes at Corsham, and the great stone works at Box. None of these occupations affect the health of the inhabitants.

House Accommodation. *Sufficiency of open air spaces about houses and cleanliness of surroundings. What supervisions over erection of new houses. What action has the Council taken under the Housing Act.*

The house accommodation is sufficient for the inhabitants, but the rents are high near the towns, especially so at Chippenham and Corsham. Several new cottages have been erected on farms for the convenience of the labourers working on these farms. New houses are inspected by your Surveyor before occupation, 31 houses were so inspected last year.

Poor Law Relief. I am informed that the amount of indoor Poor Law Relief amounts to £2340, out-door £3860, per annum for the whole Union.

Hospital. There is a Cottage Hospital in Chippenham into which suitable cases are admitted from the parishes around, a small charge is usually made. 49 cases were admitted from the Rural district last year.

Epileptic Home. There is also at Kington St. Michael a small Cottage Home for the reception of poor Epileptic women and girls, there is accommodation for 14. It is wonderful the improvement that takes place in some of the patients; the happy uneventful life with suitable occupations and the total absence of the discipline necessary in large Institutions, seems to be the cause of this improvement in the conditions of the patients. In most cases a grant is made for the maintenance of the patient from the Board of Guardians of the Union where the patient is chargeable.

Influences threatening the Health of the District. During the past year we had two serious outbreaks of infectious disease, one of diphtheria at Kington St. Michael, one of scarlatina at Stanton. The first case of diphtheria at Kington St. Michael was notified on April 8th, the child had been ill several days before a doctor was called in, although the child was conveyed immediately after notification to the Isolation Hospital, it was found that he had infected several other children, he had been attending school while suffering from the disease, fifteen other cases were quickly notified and removed to Hospital and the school was closed. The County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Tubb Thomas, accompanied by the School Medical Officer, Dr. Brembridge, kindly visited the school and examined all the children without being able to discover the source of the infection of the first child. An inspection of the village was also made by them accompanied by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances, resulting in the removal of a large number of nuisances, including the prevention of the pollution, by sewerage, of a public pond, near the school, used as a drinking place for cows and horses.

The child first notified died, he was not treated for the disease in time.

The outbreak of scarlatina at Stanton was serious, the first case was notified on September 1st, to be quickly followed by fifteen others, notwithstanding the removal of the infected children to hospital and the closing of the school. In two instances there was undoubted infection from a neighbouring hamlet where the disease was prevalent in a mild form, no doctor being called in. I also found one boy in school while peeling. Dr. Brembridge also visited this school.

On October 12th a case of diphtheria was notified at Sutton Benger, followed by the notification of two others residing near. The source of infection was at first obscure, but Dr. Barnes put me on the right line, by telling me that he had treated a boy suffering from diphtheritic paralysis some days previously, who had a sore throat in August. The possibility of this being a carrier case induced me to persuade the parents to let the boy enter the Hospital for a time, this they did, there were no more cases.

Five other isolated cases were notified where the origin could not be traced; in Yatton Keynell, Corsham, Box, and Grittleton.

Three cases of enteric fever were notified, one case was removed to the Bath Royal United Hospital, the origin of this case could not be discovered.

There was another case at Burton schoolhouse, in a lady 69 years of age, this person died; a friend who had been ill with symptoms of typhoid at Liverpool, spent some weeks in the schoolhouse previous to her being taken ill, and no doubt caused her illness.

A third case occurred at Notton, Lacock; in this instance the patient had been spending some weeks in Wales, and had eaten oysters of doubtful quality.

An Inquiry under the Public Health Act, 1875, was held at Kington Langley, by P. M. Crosthwaite, Esq., L.G.B. Inspector, to consider the application of the Chippenham Rural District Council to borrow £1183, for purposes of water supply at Kington Langley.

During the past year the Inspector of Nuisances has accompanied me in an inspection of all the towns and villages, also of many isolated houses or groups of houses in this district. Certain districts suggested at the committee meeting, under The Housing and Town Planning Act at their previous meeting, were then inspected and reported upon on a sheet arranged by Dr. Tubb Thomas, the County Medical Officer of Health, giving very accurate details of the condition of each house by the Inspector. (Sheet enclosed).

1154 inspections were made by him, including inspections on general sanitary matters, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, waste water, night and day sewerage works, &c.

184 building inspections. 26 certificates of completion of buildings. 174 dairies, cowsheds, and milk shops. 172 inspections under the Housing Act. 20 statutory notices were served. 20 statutory notices were complied with. 415 informal notices served. 405 informal notices complied with. 10 informal notices outstanding.

Milk Supply. *Its character and wholesomeness : conditions of dairies and milkshops : what is done in regard to tuberculous milk.* There are 17 retailers of milk registered, the premises of all have been inspected by me. In all cases the whole of the milk was produced in England, and was good in quality and carefully treated before sale. The population of the districts only permit of a limited business being carried on. I found the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops for the most part in good order and clean. Besides the milk which is retailed in your district, which has always engaged my attention. The milk industry is the most important industry in this neighbourhood; for many years past we have had the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Milk Company dealing with a very large quantity of milk for manufacturing purposes, they employ their own inspector, who visit the farms supplying them with milk. Last year a new company "The Wiltshire Farmers" was established, they also deal with a considerable quantity of milk, some of which they send to London for retail purposes, the remainder is manufactured into cheese; upon inspection I found both establishments in good order, both were supplied with town water.

During the past year a strong effort has been made to get the cowsheds, milkshops, and dairies more under your immediate control. 143 farms or premises have been inspected by your Inspector and registered, a copy of rules regulating the management of dairies has been issued to each seller of milk, a copy of which is enclosed; these regulations were compiled some years ago, and now may be with advantage brought up to date and re-modelled where necessary.

Other Foods. *What action has been taken under the Foods and Drugs Act : what is the condition of the premises where the food is stored : conditions of slaughter-houses.* There are important butchers' shops in Corsham, Box, and Lacock, where an extensive business is carried on. There are smaller establishments in the villages. All are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and were for the most part found to be well kept, clean, and in good order. No carcase has been condemned during the past year in consequence of tuberculosis. In conjunction with the police, your officers take all possible care to prevent the sale of unwholesome meat. I frequently examine the contents of carts hawking meat and fish in the outlying portions of district. No action has been taken or needed under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875. No action has been taken or needed under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

Water Supply. *Its source, nature, and sufficiency.* Your district is not naturally well supplied with water suitable for drinking purposes. For many years past private and public supplies have been extended by you from their original area to outlying districts where water was required. This policy was continued in 1909. A large reservoir drawing its supplies from the well owned by the Chippenham Urban Council, has been constructed at Hardenhuish by the Chippenham Urban Council. By arrangement you have been enabled to supply water from the reservoir to parts of Hardenhuish parish and Chippenham Without. There is a demand for water at Kington Langley and Kington St. Michael, and both these districts could easily obtain their supply from this source. A committee of your Board investigated the question of supplying Kington Langley from the Hardenhuish reservoir, the matter was seriously taken up. An estimate has been obtained of the cost, an inquiry presided over by a Local Government Inspector, P. M. Crosthwaite, Esq. C.E. has been held, and there seems to be a prospect of the water being brought and distributed in Kington Langley parish. As regards the water supply of Kington St. Michael, there is now a supply obtainable at a more convenient distance than the Hardenhuish reservoir, a well has been sunk at Allington by Sir Audley Neeld, for the purpose of supplying his farms at Lanhill, Battens, and other places in the parish of Chippenham Without with water. The well is 18 feet deep, a spring has been tapped, which during the very dry summer yielded some 9,000 gallons per day, without showing any signs of shrinkage. This water has been pronounced by the County Medical Officer as of excellent quality and is well adapted for domestic purposes.

It is to be pumped to a cistern on Allington hill, whence it will run by gravitation to Heywood, Down, Common, Battens, Fowlswick, Lanhill, and Sparrow farms. The work is in course of completion and should be finished in two or three months' time. The consumption of these farms will not nearly be sufficient to take the whole yield of the spring, so that there will be a considerable supply available for other purposes.

The following towns and villiages are now well supplied with water—Corsham, Box, Lacock, Christian Malford, Stanley, Biddestone, Chippenham Without, parts of Hardenhuish, Burton, and part of Langley Burrell. These supplies are from either public or private mains, in Corsham there is a Water Company. At Corsham the occupants of four houses were found to be drinking impure water from wells. The Company's water was laid on.

River and Streams. There is no pollution of the river or streams which affects the public health, no doubt there is pollution in places.

Sewerage and Drainage. *Conditions of sewers and house drains : methods of sewage disposal.* Chippenham Without, Corsham, Box, Lacock, Kington St. Michael, and Castle Combe, have systems of sewerage of importance. In the district of Chippenham Without, the system is new, up-to-date and giving a satisfactory effluent. In Corsham two systems are worked, one has been in use some years. The second is a smaller system, it is of recent construction, working well and giving a good effluent.

During the year the following new drains have been laid : at Kington St. Michael 400 yards lineal of main 6 in. sewer laid with inspection chambers and 22 street gullies were trapped. At Sutton Benger 30 street gullies were trapped. At Corsham South Bank sewerage field during the summer improvements were made to all the carriers upon the irrigation area. At Yatton Keynell an obsolete drock drain was replaced by a new pipe drain. Chippenham Without, at Patterdown sewerage works the carriers and beds were cleaned out during the hot weather. At Box the two sewerage disposal areas were working fairly well.

Privies and Water Closets. In some of the private houses, in parts of Corsham, Box, Lacock, and Chippenham Without, there are a certain number of water closets, but most of the houses are supplied with earth closets and there are some old-fashioned vaults in use.

Excrement Disposal and Scavenging. Part of Hardenhuish, Langley Burrell, and Corsham, have their house refuse moved under a contract, in all about 485 houses are dealt with, about 600 loads of refuse are moved annually.

Nuisances. 525 cases were enquired into, in no case were proceedings taken, there are now no outstanding notices. There are no common lodging houses in the district, only one offensive trade; further bye-laws are not required.

Schools. *Their sanitary condition: water supply: action taken in regard to scholars.* The public elementary schools were inspected by me, most of them have a sufficient water supply. If there has been any outbreak of infectious disease among the scholars of any school, the school buildings are thoroughly disinfected before the school re-opens. The Medical Inspection of school children is carried out by the Medical Officers of the County Educational Authority.

Housing. For carrying out of the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, your Council elected a committee under the chairmanship of the Rev. J. Thomas, they meet once a month. The condition of a considerable number of houses were brought before their notice by the Inspector. 77 houses were inspected under this Act, 5 houses were closed as unfit for habitation.

Tubercular Disease. There were 24 deaths registered from phthisis, 5 from other forms of tubercular disease, 8 cases were notified voluntarily. These cases occurred in all parts of the district. The advantage of fresh air and open windows in treating cases of tubercle is being more widely appreciated and understood by the general public: we have no provision or hospital accommodation for treating tuberculosis in the district. The Winsley Sanatorium however receives Wiltshire cases upon payment, private generosity has also placed a hut at my disposal when it is required for a suitable case. In all cases, as far as I know, the infectious nature of the disease was pointed out to the relation of the patient and the measures necessary to prevent infection pointed out to them.

Infectious Disease. In your district upon the receipt of a notification of scarlatina, diphtheria or typhoid fever, if the friends of the patient are willing, the case is removed in an ambulance in charge of a nurse to the Isolation Hospital for treatment; the house or room recently occupied by the patient is disinfected as soon as possible by your Inspector. In common with many other Authorities we have had a considerable number of cases of diphtheria to deal with. In most instances the patient contracted the malady by personal contact with persons suffering from the disease. It is impossible very often to find the first case when investigating the origin of an outbreak. There is however generally a history of sore throat among friends or relatives of the patients.

Isolation Hospital. This Hospital was in use most months of the year. During the time it was closed the interval was utilized for a general clean up, thorough disinfection, and the carrying out of some necessary repairs. The ambulance has been painted and varnished, two coats, it is now in good order. The disinfecting apparatus is out of order, if not worn out. The condition of this is now under the consideration of the committee. It may be cheaper in the end to purchase a new one, if so, I would advise that a larger one be purchased, which would be more useful and easier to work. The outside of the Hospital has been re-painted and some of the rooms have been re-coloured, also the hall and staircase. The staff consists of a Matron, who is a certificated nurse, a Probationer Nurse, two wardmaids, and a servant to cook. Extra nurses are obtained from Nursing Homes or other Institutions when required. Forty-four patients were admitted during the year, of these, twenty-eight were cases of diphtheria, and sixteen were cases of scarlatina. Two cases of diphtheria came from Chippenham Urban District. The others came from the Chippenham Rural District. All the scarlatina cases came from the Rural District. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who kindly sent toys, books, illustrated papers, and children's clothes to the Hospital, also the Wiltshire Ladies' Guild for needlework, all are much appreciated, children's clothes are most useful; the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find garments for the little ones when they are about to leave the warm wards for their draughty cottage homes. Your Committee have become subscribers to the Clinical Research Association, which will be very useful for examining throat swabs before the patients leave the hospital.

Inspection of District. In company with your Inspector, Mr. Balchin, a systematic inspection has been made of most parts of the district, where necessary the houses have been visited house to house. The schools have been visited, also the sewerage outfalls. Some cases of over-crowding were discovered and dealt with, also many nuisances arising from pig keeping, and the keeping of fowls; in many other cases I found the cottage drains defective, as a result of the existence of these conditions the wells get fouled and the soil around them saturated with sewerage, so that pumping them out does no good and an expensive water supply is called for. No defective drains, heaps of manure, or pigsty, should be permitted near a well; as a result of our inspection a large number of nuisances were discovered and dealt with, also the sewerage improvements which I have enumerated before, were brought before you and carried out.

Factories and Workshops. An inspection has been made of all Factories and Workshops, which were found in good order. A report of these has been sent to the Home Office.

Attendance. I have attended every meeting of your Board, also the meetings of the Isolation Hospital Committee, and the meetings of the Housing and Town Planning Act Committee.

Before closing my report I should wish to thank Mr. Balchin for the assistance he has been to me and the energy he has shewn in discharging the various duties of his office.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, M.D., B.A.

February 8th, 1912.

Borough of Chippenham Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report and Tabular Statistics for 1911.

(ABBREVIATED).

Table 1.

BIRTHS and DEATHS.

YEAR.	Population.	Births.		Deaths under 1 year old		Total Deaths.	
		No.	Rate per 1000 of Population	No.	Rate per 1000 of Births.	No.	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1901	5074	122	24.4	9	73.7	66	13.0
1902	"	129	25.4	14	108.5	72	14.1
1903	"	130	25.6	10	76.9	62	12.2
1904	"	131	25.8	8	61.0	55	10.8
1905	"	117	23.05	6	51.2	41	8.08
1906	"	128	25.22	9	70.3	71	13.99
1907	"	116	22.86	14	120.6	75	14.75
1908	"	118	23.25	5	42.3	57	11.23
1909	"	125	24.63	7	56.0	46	9.06
1910	"	110	21.67	9	81.8	71	13.99
Average of foregoing		122.6	24.16	9.1	74.23	61.6	12.12
1911	5332	104	19.5	9	86.5	53	9.93

There were 10 Deaths of Borough persons not registered in the District, and the number of deaths 53 includes 11 cases of death at the Cottage Hospital of which 7 did not belong to the Borough,

Making the Total Figures attributable to the District ..

56 10.5

Number of Inhabited Houses in Borough--1911 Census .. 1253

Average Number of Persons per House 4.25

Table 2. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING YEAR.

	No.	Sent to Isolation Hospital.
Diphtheria (including Membranous group) ..	2	2
Erysipelas	7	..
Scarlet Fever	1	..
Tuberculosis	3	..
Totals	13	2

Table 3.

CASES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH.

CAUSE	Total No.	Ages.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and uprds.
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer (2 at Cottage Hospital) ..	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Bronchitis	14	1	..	..	..	..	2	11
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia (2 at Cottage Hospital) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Accidents	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
All other causes (5 at Cottage Hospital) ..	28	7	..	1	..	2	5	13
Total ..	56	9	..	1	1	5	10	30

Table 4. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	Total.
Enteritis				1		1
Premature Births, &c.	1	1		1		3
Meningitis			1			1
Convulsions	2				1	3
Bronchitis				1		1
	3	1	1	3	1	9

Legitimate	Births.	Deaths.
Illegitimate	104	9
	nil.	nil.

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1911.

GENTLEMEN,

Physical Features. Through the Town runs a bend of the River Avon entering at the South-East, looping round on the North, and passing out at the South. The Eastern half of the River bend is at a higher level than the Western half, being kept up six or eight feet by a Mill and Weir near the Town Bridge. Most of the new houses have been erected on the North side of the River. Into the Southern portion of the Town runs a branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal, at a higher level than the River and not communicating with it. The Canal is now little used. The Town lies in a valley, having higher ground on every side, still, almost everywhere it stands well above the River level, and has well marked regular slopes towards each part of the stream. The Railway accommodation is good.

The soil of the Town is corn brash, to the South-East and West of the Town the corn brash is covered in many parts with a considerable depth of Oxford clay.

Social Conditions. There is plenty of work and plenty of amusement for young people in Chippenham. The Iron Works are busy, the Bacon Factory constantly going. The Cloth Factory, Gas Works, the Building Trade, Tannery, the two Milk Factories, and a Boot Factory offer work to men; while for women, the Anglo-Swiss and Nestlé Milk Factory, the Cloth Factory, and an important Laundry offer a choice of work. None of these trades influence public health. There is also amusement for all. There are good Football, Cricket, and Tennis Clubs, and Electric Theatre, a New Hall has been built for various kinds of shows, it is well attended by all classes. There are besides 3 Clubs, with rooms for reading and games.

Industries. The principal Industries are—in the Southern portion, 2 Milk Factories, a Cloth Factory, and in the Northern portion, a large Iron Works, 2 Bacon Curing Companies, and a smaller Iron Works, none of these works or occupations influence the public health.

The increasing population within the past ten years has demanded an increase in house accommodation for working class people, private enterprise has resulted in the building of a large number of new houses, and these have been supplemented by a private company who built a large number of good class artizan dwellings just without the Urban District; these new streets are all 36 feet wide.

The Urban houses are inspected by your Surveyor before occupation, the plans being submitted to you before erection. There is now little difficulty for a family to obtain a sufficiently large house provided they can pay the rent. During the past year trade has been better in Chippenham.

Poor Law Relief. I am informed that the indoor relief amounts to £2340 per annum for the whole Union. The out-door relief costs £3860 per annum, making roughly a cost of 5/3 per head of the population per annum.

Other Hospital Accommodation. There is a Cottage Hospital in Chippenham into which 156 patients were admitted, 49 came from the villages around, 107 from Chippenham, including the hamlet called Woodlands; there were 9 deaths. A small charge is made in most instances for admission.

The Census. The result of the Census shews an increase of 258 in the population in the past 10 years. The house accommodation has been increased during the same period to rather more than a corresponding amount. There being about 1253 houses occupied. There is little overcrowding.

Incidents of Disease. During the past year 2 cases of Diphtheria were notified, one in July, one in September, there was no connection between them, both cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the houses were disinfected and the drains washed down with strong disinfectant. The origin of the disease could not be traced. There was one case of Scarlatina notified, it was a doubtful case, there had been some exposure to infection, the patient was isolated for some days, and as there was no disquæmation he was released without any spreading of disease. There was no other special influence threatening to effect the health of the district.

The birth rate shows a further decrease.

An inquiry was held by M. K. North, Esq. M.I.C.E. on August 22nd, 1911, to consider the application for sanction to borrow £550 for purpose of the Waterworks. This was granted.

During the past year nearly the whole district has been inspected by myself and your Surveyor. Those localities in a bad Sanitary condition received more than one visit, as a result work has been carried out improving the Sanitary conditions of 64 dwellings.

Certain districts or special houses or blocks of houses were then selected for action under The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. Accurate details of these houses were recorded on a sheet as approved and issued by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Tubb Thomas; as a result one house was closed voluntarily and the others are under notice.

Milk Supply. This part of Wiltshire being a great dairy district it is not surprising that we find here excellent and abundant milk on sale. There are nine Milksellers registered—the milk is in most cases brought into the Town in cans from the various farms. These farms as well as the Milk Shops themselves, are inspected by your Medical Officer. They were found to be in good order. No imported milk is used. No sample of milk has been examined for evidence of Tubercle. One dairyman has his cows examined for Tubercle periodically by Mr. Williams, M.R.C.V.S. All the dairies in the Urban District use the town water. I have, when inspecting the country dairies sending milk for consumption in Chippenham, inquired into the quality of the water used for dairy purposes. I have not considered it necessary to send it up for analysis. The dairy industries are very important in our district. The Anglo-Swiss and Nestlé Company take a very large amount for manufacturing purposes, they have been established here for many years, and employ their own Inspector to visit and report upon the condition of the farms and cattle supplying them with milk.

Last year a new company was formed "The Wiltshire Farmers," they propose to send some of the milk they take to London for supplying the retail trade, then what is kept will be made into cheese in Chippenham. The building and water supply are all that can be desired.

Other Foods. There is an excellent supply of first quality butchers' meat to be found in the Town. There is also good foreign meat sold, wholesome in quality. Your Officers, aided by the police, do all in their power to prevent the flesh of diseased animals being sold. The meat and fish sold in the Market Place is frequently inspected by myself, and the slaughterhouses are also inspected. No legal proceedings have been taken, nor were they needed. The Wiltshire Bacon Factory has been regularly inspected by myself, and the bacon for export examined. These premises are all that can be desired and are entirely free from nuisance. Your Council have made no arrangement for the inspection of meat except such inspections as are made by Mr. Adams and myself. There are 10 ordinary slaughterhouses, these are visited about four times a year. There are besides, two large bacon curing establishments, these are inspected more frequently. No carcasses have been condemned.

Fish Inspections. The inspection of fish is also carried out, including that which is exposed for sale in the Market Place.

Water Supply. This is derived from a well the property of the Authority, the quality as shewn by analysis taken from time to time is excellent and the quantity is abundant. It is distributed over the whole district in pipes and is not likely to have plumbo-solvent action. For some years at uncertain times, conditions and places, a quantity of rust was found in the water, also a peculiar smell, which was not discernible. To remedy these conditions if possible your Council called in the aid of Dr. Ridcal. I beg to append his report.

River. The river is free from pollution.

Sewerage. An extensive system of sewerage on approved methods has been in use for some five years now, throughout the whole Town, the works are giving satisfaction and producing a good effluent. The outfall and tanks are under the care of an expert workman, acting under the advice and instruction of your Surveyor (Mr. Adams.) There have been complaints of smells from these tanks which have been dealt with as far as possible at the time. The whole of the sewerage of the town ultimately reach this sewerage system. 65 yards of new Sewer has been laid in the Butts, ventilated with manholes and ventilating columns; all the Sewers are laid to give a self-cleansing velocity.

Privies and Water Closets. There are approximately 1253 houses in the Town, of these 717 have water closets and cisterns, 373 have water closets without cisterns, 31 have privies with moveable receptables, 10 have privies with fixed receptables. The two latter classes of Sanitary convenience are to be found in what we call the rural portion of the district, the policy of the Board is to cause them to disappear; during the past year 15 were so changed, in 1910, 4 were changed, in 1909, 51 were changed, in 1908, 12 were changed, into water closets. The Council do not permit the erection of Sanitary conveniences other than water closets in new buildings.

House Refuse and Seavenging. This work is carried out by your Council, refuse being removed three times a week from all parts of the Town.

Lodging Houses. There are two Lodging Houses registered, these have been inspected by me.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades carried on in this Town.

The Public Elementary Schools have been inspected and the Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of the Schools were found to be satisfactory.

During the last year I have attended your Committee Meetings and reported the Zymotic cases notified during the preceeding month. Special inspections were also made at the houses or districts where epidemic disease was present or had been present, and as a result several unhealthy conditions were removed. Printed instructions for disinfection were distributed at every house where infectious disease was present, and on the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, or the recovery of the patient, the rooms were fumigated by your Surveyor.

Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Three cases of Tuberculosis were notified, one of these was treated in Winsley Sanatorium, this patient entered the Workhouse Infirmary where a special ward was provided, her friends afterwards removed her to Reading. One case was treated locally and is now living at home fairly well. The other case was also treated at home, the condition has improved somewhat.

As mentioned in an earlier portion of my report there are at present sufficient houses for the working classes. I do not think it likely that any large number of houses will be closed under The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. If houses become scarce, the occupiers when they leave their house in the Urban district, will probably look for a house in Lowden or one of the adjacent Hamlets where houses are being and have been recently built.

Market. The Market for cattle and other animals formerly held in the square and streets is removed to more suitable quarters in the Market Yard. A copy of Bye-laws is enclosed regulating the New Market and rates there. This greatly improves the condition of our streets and pavements.

Midwives Act. My attention has not been called to any breach of rules governing midwives working in your district.

Infant Mortality. The number of deaths among infants under one year old, does not call for comment from me. I have distributed to mothers a small Pamphlet giving advice upon the feeding and management of children, which I think have been of use.

Inspection of School Children. The school children are inspected by Medical Officers appointed by the County Council. My relations with these Officers are intimate and cordial.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted. I have no reason to suppose that the infant mortality is higher than it ought to be.

Infectious Disease. In your district, upon the receipt of a notification either of Scarlatina or Diphtheria (if the friends of the patient are willing) the case is removed in an ambulance in charge of a nurse, to the Isolation Hospital. The house or room is disinfected as soon after removal as possible by your Inspector, two rooms have been fumigated with Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) after infectious disease, and in every case the premises have been thoroughly inspected by Mr. Adams, your Surveyor.

In Company with your Surveyor I made a systematic inspection of the whole district, special attention being given to the courts and yards, all of which, save one, are paved with impervious material. I observed the large number of connections which have been made between houses and the new sewers, Mr. Adams also drew my attention to the sewer gradients. As a result of these inspections a considerable number of nuisances were discovered and removed. I found the river free from pollution, the water clear and the banks free from deposit or sediment. All the factories, workshops and workplaces have been inspected and found in good order, also the bakehouses. There is no underground bakehouse in the Town. There are seven large works which are reported upon to the Home Office, besides these, I have inspected small workshops and establishments for making wearing apparel. I found all in good order, I have also inspected the newly erected Skating Rink.

There has not been any imported labour brought into the district for picking hops, fruit and peas.

Isolation Hospital. The Hospital was in use most months of the year. During the time it was closed the interval was utilized for a general clean up, thorough disinfection, and the carrying out of some necessary repairs. The ambulance has been painted and varnished, two coats, it is now in good order. The disinfecting apparatus is out of order, of not worn out. The condition of this is now under the consideration of the committee, it may be cheaper in the end to purchase a new one, if so, I would advise that a larger one be purchased, which would be more useful and easier to work. The outside of the Hospital has been re-painted and some of the rooms have been re-coloured, also the hall and staircase. The staff consists of a Matron, who is a certificated nurse, a Probationer Nurse, two wardmaids, and a servant to cook, extra nurses are obtained from Nursing Homes or other Institutions when required. Forty-four patients were admitted during the year, of these, twenty-eight were cases of Diphtheria, and sixteen were cases of Scarlatina. Two cases of Diphtheria came from Chippenham Urban District, the other cases came from the Chippenham Rural District. All the Scarlatina cases came from the Rural District. Nurse Warren is still acting as Matron, she continues to enjoy the entire confidence of those working for and with her. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who kindly sent toys, illustrated papers, and children's clothes to the Hospital, also the Wiltshire Ladies' Guild for Needlework, all are much appreciated, children's clothes are most useful, the Matron is often sadly perplexed to find garments for the little ones when they are about to leave the warm wards for their draughty cottage home. Your Committee have become subscribers to the Clinical Research Association, which will be useful for examining throat swabs before the patient leaves the Hospital.

These, Gentlemen, are some of the more important Sanitary matters which have engaged your attention, and the attention of your Officers during the past year. I have to thank Mr. Adams for his ready aid and prompt action in dealing with many small matter which did not come before you.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BRISCOE, M.D., B.A.

February 8th, 1912,